

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT 7
DATE 1/14/09
HB 60, 130, 131, 132

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. BOX 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Ebinger
Representative Stoker, Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 60, Jail mental health crisis network standards
pilot program

Date: January 12, 2009

Dear Representative Ebinger and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 60 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 60.

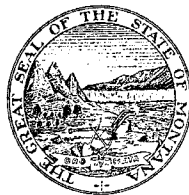
The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities).

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Stoker, Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: *David Ewer* David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 130, Grant program for local crisis services
and jail diversion for mentally ill

Date: January 14, 2009

Dear Representative Stoker and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 130 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 130.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities).

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Stoker, Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 131, State contracting for mental health
emergency detention beds

Date: January 14, 2009

Dear Representative Stoker and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 131 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 131.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities).

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Stoker, Chair
Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 132, Diversion from involuntary commitment to
short-term inpatient treatment

Date: January 14, 2009

Dear Representative Stoker and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 132 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 132.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities).

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.